

a.) Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 3 and 9 and amend claims 1, 7, 8, 14 and 16.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a lactating cow ~~in a~~  
~~ruminant~~ that suffers from mastitis, comprising:

administering to the lactating cow which suffers from mastitis a  
therapeutically effective amount of phytase.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claims 1 or 15,  
which comprises administering feedstuff containing 50 to 5,000 units phytase per kg of dry  
feed matter.

Claims 3-6 (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~claims 14 or 16~~  
claim 2, wherein the feedstuff comprises formula feed.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~claims 14 or 16~~  
claim 2, wherein the feedstuff further comprises zinc methionine sulfate.

Claims 9-13 (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~which~~  
~~comprises administering feedstuff containing 50 to 5,000 units phytase per kg of dry feed~~

~~matter and~~ wherein the concentration of somatic cells in the milk of the lactating cow is greater than  $2.5 \times 10^5$  cells/ml prior to treatment.

15. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a herd of lactating cows, the milk of which is pooled, after it has been determined at least one of said lactating cows suffers from mastitis, comprising:

administering to the herd, including said lactating cow which suffers from mastitis, a therapeutically effective amount of phytase.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, ~~which comprises administering feedstuff containing 50 to 5,000 units phytase per kg of dry feed~~ ~~matter and~~ wherein the concentration of somatic cells in the pooled milk is greater than  $2.5 \times 10^5$  cells/ml prior to treatment.